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## Wisconsin Karner Blue Butterfly Habitat Conservation Plan and Environmental Impact Statement

### Chapter 2: Statewide Karner Blue Butterfly Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP)

#### G. HCP Funding

##### 1. Funding Overview

The strength of this unique statewide conservation plan is the commitment of conservation measures on large tracts of public and private land (partner lands) throughout the State of Wisconsin. The HCP partners and other cooperators have committed to work together in a grassroots cooperative plan designed to assure the future of the Karner blue butterfly through joint conservation efforts conducted while continuing their otherwise lawful management and land use activities.

In addition, the conservation of this species will rely on the joint efforts of the many other landowners in the state whose activities may affect this species. Many of these landowners and land users are unidentified at this time and will be identified as the participation plan is implemented. Although the magnitude of the initial outreach effort has been estimated and the initial cost is being committed to (see Table 2.22, page 154), the financial needs and contributions to administer this segment of the conservation effort are unknown and unknowable at the onset. The participation plan of the HCP seeks to bring together this tremendous resource of support. *This conservation effort, therefore, differs from other HCPs, as does the approach to funding.*

The strength behind the guarantee of funding is not to be found in the detail of dollars that might be located in an escrow account, but rather in the DNR's and the partners' commitments outlined in the Implementing Agreement and individual conservation agreements. As testimony to this commitment, the HCP Team (including non-partner participants) has invested more than four years in developing this plan at an estimated cost well over \$1.5 million in time, expertise and resources. Within their legally binding conservation agreements the partners continue to commit their resources to assure this HCP will be successful.

Therefore, in this plan, there will be a continuing effort through funding mechanisms and sources identified below and through joint partnering efforts:

- ☞ With the guidance of the IOC, the DNR shall establish funding mechanisms needed to support the implementation of the HCP;

- ☞ The DNR will include in its annual budget requests for funds to fulfill its obligations under the HCP and the Implementing Agreement (see Part H of this chapter for staffing and support details). However, the DNR can not guarantee state funds for future activities to administer the ITP and implement the HCP which are not yet appropriated by the state legislature;
- ☞ The USFWS will seek adequate funding to fulfill its administration and assistance commitments and meet its statutory requirements (e.g., assist with permit monitoring and oversight issues and provide assistance on permit and HCP implementation issues). The USFWS further agrees to assist in identifying and pursuing funding for activities in the HCP that contribute to the recovery of the Karner blue butterfly.
- ☞ The partners will continue existing collaborative efforts and will develop further funding opportunities with the USFWS, US Geological Survey (and former NBS), National Fish & Wildlife Foundation, and the DNR's Extension of Services Private Lands Team and others sources that match HCP needs.

If at any point in the implementation and administration of the HCP funding appears to be unavailable to meet commitments, the DNR will consult with the USFWS to determine whether the HCP or ITP needs amendment or modification.

## 2. HCP Plan Organizational Structure

**Implementation Needs.** To anchor the HCP implementation infrastructure, DNR will provide a full-time, permanent employee as the HCP Coordinator. This position will be stationed in the Bureau of Forestry and will be supported by segregated forestry funds.

There are several unknowns at the onset of this HCP:

- ☞ the uncertainty of state and federal funding,
- ☞ the fact that the ultimate number of participants is greatly unknown, and
- ☞ the magnitude of different activities.

As a result, the diverse financial needs of implementing the HCP requires that:

- ☞ a variety of funding sources be available and
- ☞ the management of these funds be flexible.

The DNR, with the advice of the IOC's subcommittee on funding and accounting, will make the best use of funds to optimize implementation of the HCP. The USFWS may be consulted on priorities when needed.

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Administrative costs to administer the ITP, to implement the HCP and to operate the adaptive management system will largely be born by the DNR's Land Division: jointly funded and supported by:

- ☞ Land Division general purpose revenue (GPR) funds;
- ☞ GPR funds allocated to the Bureau of Endangered Resources (BER), BER tax-check off funds and endangered resources motor vehicle license plate sales;
- ☞ in-kind support from various DNR staff through cross program cooperation negotiated through the Department's work planning process;
- ☞ in-kind support from partners' staff participating on the IOC and its working subcommittees; and
- ☞ non-refundable application fees for future applicants requiring certificates of inclusion or partner status.

**Partner Commitments.** Table 2.22 (page 154) lists the summary of dollar commitments by the partners associated with the activities discussed throughout this section and detailed in the corresponding sections of Chapter II.

The main body providing partner support to the general implementation of the HCP is the partners' implementation oversight committee (IOC). Operation of the IOC will be mostly self-funded with in-kind contributions of service and support of the IOC standing members. All partners are responsible for participating on the IOC during the course of the ITP.

Through individual conservation agreements, partners are committed to fund their management activities which give consideration to, or enhance and favor the Karner blue butterfly and/or its habitat. Partners are likewise committed to fund self-monitoring on lands they manage.

### 3. Implementation Process

**Monitoring Impacts.** Partners will commit funds for long-term biological monitoring needs, as outlined in Parts D and H of this chapter. Effectiveness monitoring (statewide status) costs will be primarily shared by DNR (as permit administrator) and the HCP Partners. Funding sources include:

- ☞ DNR (will seek federal funding assistance);
- ☞ in-kind monitoring, as most partners will choose to provide monitoring on their lands; and
- ☞ possibly a portion of inclusion fees and in-kind services from future applicants.

Each Partner will support pre-management surveying (pre-management and reconnaissance) and monitoring (self-monitoring for validation) of lands entered into the management strategies under the conservation agreement as related to normal management activities. The funding to support pre-management surveying and monitoring related to partners' normal management activities is

the responsibility of each partner. Each partner is obligated to perform this monitoring by their commitment in their conservation agreement. Verification that this obligation has been met will be part of the compliance auditing process.

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**Table 2.22. Partners' Estimated Annual Commitments During Permit Period**

Activity	Annual Commitment (dollars)
Surveying (pre-management)	\$ 72,920
Monitoring (post-treatment validation and statewide effectiveness)	\$ 69,585
Record Keeping and Data Mgmt.	\$ 83,620
Research	\$ 59,150
Public Outreach and Education	\$ 94,004
Public Awareness	\$ 4,000
Training	\$ 43,482
Administration	\$ 84,000
HCP-IOC Participation	\$ 49,370
Conservation Efforts	\$ 60,375
Long-Term Management	\$ 64,855
Land Acquisition	\$ 70,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 597,361</b>

**Compliance Auditing.** Compliance auditing satisfies the USFWS' "need to know" that the parties involved are honoring their agreements. This form of monitoring, while the responsibility of the DNR, relies heavily on federal funds to assure its completion.

**Funding Commitments for the Mitigation Program.** Self-mitigating activities that result in the positive and necessary disturbances required for Karner blue butterflies to persist are inherent in each partner's normal land use activities. This is the very thing that has allowed the Karner blue butterfly's continued persistence on the Wisconsin landscape. A detailed description of funding commitments to perform existing normal work is irrelevant since these are the normal activities which would otherwise occur on the landscape. It is necessary and desirable that partners resume these activities when an ITP is issued. For those situations where normal work will be modified, and the modifications result in additional costs, the partners are committing to funding additional in-kind effort as reflected in their conservation agreements. (See Table 2.22, page 154).

Mitigation used as recovery is planned by some partners. This extended mitigation which goes

beyond what would normally be expected in the HCP is greatly dependent on the availability of federal funding. The cost of this mitigation is most of the sum in Table 2.22 (page 154) under the category "long term management".

**Collection and Management of Funds, Fees and Fines.** Due to pending state legislation regarding the DNR's ability to collect and manage funds from certain groups, and for this same reason, also holding back negotiating alternative mechanisms, the detail for these mechanisms may not be defined at the onset.

A mitigation fee structure, if any, and other compensatory measures for long term/permanent take identified by existing Partners or future applicants to this HCP will be developed by the DNR in cooperation with the IOC within 6 months of issuance of ITP.

**Data Management and Analysis.** The DNR will be responsible for coordinating and providing most data management and GIS activities. Funding will come from: DNR through work planning; commitments from some partners; outside sources; and may use a portion of inclusion fees from future applicants.

When data analysis needs are found to exceed the in-kind services of the DNR, partners' technical staff and the IOC biological subcommittee, or external sources are otherwise necessary or advisable, funding will be sought by the DNR and the IOC funding subcommittee.

**Research.** Research priorities initially identified are discussed in Part D of this chapter (pages 114-124). The HCP is fortunate to be the beneficiary of research already being pursued or planned by other parties. The HCP partners have also invested a considerable amount of money for research. A discussion of research related to herbicide use is included in Part D of this chapter (pages 114-118).

Observation and analysis of monitoring data will fuel the adaptive management process. Other research which may be beneficial will be pursued as its priority becomes more important and as funding becomes available. Large sums of funding for additional research are not being committed to initially. However, the partnership may make use of a portion of inclusion fees and in-kind services from future applicants.

Some research is fundamental to the federal recovery process and may also benefit the HCP. This research is primarily the responsibility of the USFWS, and therefore, the HCP Partnership will look to the USFWS to help support research in this category.

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**Training.** Training may take a variety of forms, depending on the ultimate customer and demand. Funding for, or in-kind training services may be provided by one or more of the following:

- ☞ the DNR - Bureaus of Endangered Resources and Forestry and the HCP Coordinator;
- ☞ the DNR regional and area offices and customer service centers;
- ☞ the DNR Bureau of Communication and Education;
- ☞ the HCP Partners that have committed to internal and some external training in their conservation agreements;
- ☞ the existing cooperative relationships with organizations like the Wisconsin Woodland Owners Association, Audubon Society, Sierra Club; and
- ☞ the extended cooperative partnerships with organizations such as UW-Extension, county land conservation agencies, tree farm families and others which will be developed.

The partners may also make use of a portion of inclusion fees and in-kind services from future applicants for training.

In-kind services will mostly support these activities (see Table 2.22, page 154). Where products and services are identified beyond voluntary providers ability, the DNR and IOC subcommittee on funding may seek support from sources where projects qualify for funding. The National Fish & Wildlife Foundation is an example of one funding source which will be offered the opportunity to participate.

#### **4) Additional Conservation Efforts**

**Outreach and Education.** An important element of the HCP is the effort to spread broad awareness and understanding of the predicament of the Karner blue and the opportunities to participate in this HCP. Coordination and initial outreach will be funded by the DNR.

Education may take a variety of forms, depending on the ultimate audience and demand. This will be provided by one or more of the following:

- ☞ the DNR Bureaus of Endangered Resources and Forestry and the HCP Coordinator;
- ☞ the DNR Regional and Area offices and Customer Service Centers;
- ☞ the DNR Bureau of Communication and Education;
- ☞ HCP Partners that have committed to outreach and education measures in their conservation agreements;
- ☞ the existing cooperative relationships with organizations like Wisconsin Woodland Owners Association, Audubon Society and Sierra Club; and
- ☞ the extended cooperative partnerships which will be developed with organizations such as UW-Extension, county land conservation agencies, tree farm families and others.

As with training, the partners may make use of a portion of inclusion fees and in kind services from future applicants for education and outreach.

In-kind services will greatly support these activities (see Table 2.22, page 154). Where specific products and services are identified beyond voluntary providers' ability or commitment, the DNR and the IOC subcommittee on funding may seek support from sources where projects qualify for funding.

**Public Awareness.** It is anticipated that there will be a great deal of interest and inquiry around this HCP effort. Much of this could be academic or otherwise not directly related to recruiting additional conservation efforts. Funding for public awareness in the form of public relations will primarily be the responsibility of the DNR. The HCP Coordinator will collaborate with the Bureau of Communication and Education. Funding will primarily come from Bureau of Endangered Resources GPR funds and Land Division GPR. Where the DNR feels it is appropriate, the IOC will be consulted for advice or assistance.



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